



## MINUTES

### **Tuesday, February 9, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Google Meet - Virtual Meeting, 7:00 PM**

#### **1. Call to Order**

#### **2. Opening of the Meeting – 7:00 PM**

Louis Schwartz called the meeting to order.

##### **2.01 Pledge of Allegiance**

##### **2.02 Roll Call**

Mr. Louis Schwartz, President; Ms. Rita Kennedy, Vice President; Ms. Shannon Johnson; Ms. Jean Lucasey; Ms. Tracy Baron; Ms. Shannon Stringer; Mr. Massimo Bufalini, Dr. Lisa Brady, Superintendent; Mr. Douglas Berry, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction ; Mr. Ron Clamser, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations; and Ms. Loretta Tularzko, District Clerk.

##### **2.03 Acceptance of the Agenda**

Ms. Stringer moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, that the Board accept the February 9th Agenda.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

##### **2.04 Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Bufalini moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board move to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2021 meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

#### **3. Citizens Comments**

**3.01** Anyone wishing to make comments during the two Citizen's Comment portions of the meeting can do so by emailing [boemeetingcomment@DFSD.org](mailto:boemeetingcomment@DFSD.org) and you will be sent a link with additional details for joining the Google Meet for the Citizen's Comments portion of the meeting.

##### **3.02 Notice**

*Members of the community may comment on any matter related to the meeting's approved agenda. The Board President may request a brief description of the topic the speaker plans to address. Any group or organization wishing to address the Board must identify a single spokesperson. Presentations should be as brief as possible and no speaker will be permitted to speak for longer than 3 minutes. It is expected that speakers will conduct themselves in a civil manner and will be ruled out of order for any statement that constitutes a direct threat against officers, employees or students of the school district, or that is obscene. Questions or comments concerning matters that are not on the agenda will be taken under consideration and referred to the Superintendent for appropriate action.*

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The following callers voiced their opinions in the matter of granting CV parents of students attending Dobbs Ferry Schools to be able to run for a seat on the Board and to vote in the budget/trustee election:

Marjorie Lashae, Ellen Crane, Suzy Barnett, Paulette Rivers, Jean Horsfield, Rick Jaime-Bettan, Rachel Dannefer Lauren DeVilbiss, Jessica Bloom Galen, Alexandra Moss, Becky Robbins Pitts, Leslie Papa, Sarah Khondker, Jen Cadenhead, Aisha Williams, Rebecca Hershberg, Wyeth Galen, Ahmad Job Casey Romany, Sarah Khondker

Two emails:

- Karen Menzie email regarding More Transparency for Re-Opening of School Full Time.
- Kristine Neufeld email regarding issues with the Springhurst turf field.

### 4. Announcements

#### 4.01 Private School Transportation Requests

*Parents who are considering sending a child to a private school\* next year are advised that transportation requests must be submitted by **Thursday, April 1, 2021**, in order to be included in the district's request for transportation next year. Requests for forms should be made to the Transportation Director at 914-295-5544. A written request must be submitted for each child and for each school being considered. The School Board has established a firm policy of not considering requests submitted after the deadline.*

*\*(Parents should note that a separate request must be submitted for each school being considered. Requests may be withdrawn if a school is not selected, but **may not** be considered if submitted after the deadline).*

#### 4.02 Board Member Terms of Office

*Two terms of office of the Dobbs Ferry Board of Education will be expiring on June 30, 2021:*

*Two seats for three (3) year terms, July 1, 2021-June 30, 2024*

- *Mr. Louis Schwartz and Ms. Shannon Johnson*

*Forms for petitions to run for a seat on the Board of Education are available in the District Office. Petitions to run as a candidate for the School Board next year must be submitted by the close of business on Monday, April 19, 2021. Thirty-eight signatures of qualified voters in the district are required.*

#### 4.03 Personal Voter Registration

*Any community resident not registered with the Westchester County Board of Elections may do so during Personal Registration which will take place on Monday, May 10, 2021, between 3:30 PM and 7:30 PM in the HS Gymnasium Foyer. Voter Qualifications: (1) Must be a citizen of the United States; (2) Must be 18 years of age or older; (3) Must have been a resident of the school district for a period of 30 days or more prior to May 18, 2021.*

#### WPSBA

- On March 11 and March 18, WPSBA will hold their Annual Education Law Negotiations Workshop via zoom this year. Board Members should have received an email. If you didn't let Tracy know and she can forward it to you.
  - March 11 9am to noon - ED Law Section
  - March 18 9am to 11am - focused on negotiations.
  - And if you're interested, you need to register through our district clerk Loretta.
- Brief update on today's town call. Representatives from all the districts have been sharing updates, changes and how we're all grappling with COVID-19 challenges. Folks are all over the map I'd say the one common theme is frustration with lack of clear guidance from the state and the county. Everyone is trying to figure out what's what and none of us are public health experts. But our districts are all trying to do the best we can by our by our kids. If anyone wants more detail Tracy will be happy to share.
- Another topic was with relation to the various sports and cheerleading, someone said that there was something in the regulation about masks to be worn by cheerleaders and wrestlers which are considered choking hazards.

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### PTSA

- Jean Lucasey asked the Board to accept the Dobbs Ferry hats that were distributed earlier today from the PTSA, Brooke Bass and Kathy O'Connor, as a token of appreciation thanking the Board for the hard work and dedication, especially during these turbulent times by supporting the students and families of Dobbs Ferry.

## 5. Superintendent's Report

### District

#### Athletic Update (High Risk Sports) - [Andrew Klaich](#)

- All high risk sports have been on a pause since last March.
- As of the middle of January, Governor Cuomo said that on February 1, all high risk sports within New York State can begin as long as it was cleared by local health departments, as well as local Sections and local schools. NYSPHAA gave the green light for sports to happen and the local Department of Health gave clearance on January 30.
- There were items that have to happen for a student to participate in a sport
  - The school has to have a board resolution adopting high risk sports, which is on the agenda tonight
  - Every parent and student that is looking to play a high risk sport has to sign a participation waiver, informed consent
  - A Code of Conduct and an informational document that every student and parent need to sign off on that they read
  - Any student that has had COVID-19 in the past has to be cleared by a medical professional along with a cardiac clearance prior to playing a high risk sport.
  - We have been doing some offseason workouts under guidance from NYSPHAA and the Department of Health.
  - We are looking to start the sports of basketball JV and varsity boys and girls basketball. We also have one student that plays hockey on a merged team. Those would be the only high risk sports we would be looking to run in this winter season. We would anticipate that the all these things will remain in place for fall 2 season and fall 2 season begins on March 8, and that would be cheerleading, football and volleyball for Dobbs ferry.
  - As of today, we will not be conducting surveillance tests for our high risk student athletes.
- Question – What about the choking hazard for wearing masks in wrestling and cheerleading?
  - We are not planning on running a winter cheer. We only had three students sign up. But we are anticipating that we're going to run it on March 8. However, there is nothing in any document that has been given to the schools by NYSPHAA or the Section. Dr. Hough had said she had heard this with wrestling and cheerleading but nothing concrete has surfaced.
  - The resolution on tonight's agenda is for both since our next meeting is not until March 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Question – If we want to do surveillance testing who would pay for it.
  - We would be relying on the state for the Binax testing cards
  - We had a system in place when we were talking about being in the yellow zone, so I don't think it would be overly complicated for our nurses to know how preform the Binax testing
  - It would be testing a certain percentage of the kids or all of the kids. Once a week or twice a week, we would develop a protocol based on what our medical director would tell us is a sensible protocol.
  - That test would be available to us free of charge.
- Question –Has there been any change in the rules around athletics for PE classes?
  - There has been no change in the guidance. The initial guidance that came out late last July has not changed. Students still have to be 12 feet apart. There's no sharing of any equipment without sanitation. If they're indoors, they're not supposed to get to a level where they're going to breathe heavy or perspire. They can't play basketball in Phys. Ed class at this point in time

### School Reopening Plans

We are closely following the discussions being had across the County about fully reopening schools. The Rivertowns superintendents met yesterday to discuss who this might be accomplished with a target of after the spring break. There are three conditions that absolutely must be in place:

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- Vaccinations for all teachers who want them
- A surveillance testing program for students optimally with support from NYS
- Support for a relaxation of the social distancing guidelines from 6 ft. to 3 ft. with masks

The superintendent groups are working hard to make an impact on all three of these areas through Westchester County and also trying to gain access directly to the NYS DOH. We expect these discussions to escalate rapidly. Westchester County is working with the school districts to set up alternative vaccination sites for schools.

District-Wide Safety and Emergency Plan is now required to include State Mandated Emergency Health Protocols for a Health Emergency. I will be on our website for 30 days prior to Public Hearing on March 9th. All districts are required to have plans posted by April 1st for a declared public health emergency for a communicable disease.

Rivertowns Career Fair for Diverse Educators - will be held virtually this year. The Districts include Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, Irvington and Edgemont. Ads will be placed in the New York Times and a multitude of other local community-based diverse recruiting sources. Since the Career Fair is virtual this year, it will run for the Week of March 1st. The ads link to both the OLAS application system and a list of all of the available positions open in each of the districts. Interested candidates will then be populated into a spreadsheet for contact by the individual districts.

### High School

- We will administer the PSAT 10 and the pre-ACT/ACT in-person this year. The dates are as follows:
  - PSAT 10: Tuesday, March 23rd
  - ACT: (grades 10/11): Tuesday, April 13th
- 8th Grade Parent Chat will be held virtually on February 24th at 6pm. The event will be live streamed.

### Springhurst

- Springhurst is collaborating with SPRING Community Partners to hold a parent workshop “meet” with translation services provided (and translated handouts/access guides for systems like Parent Portal) by SH staff on new initiatives and current SH events to help keep ENL families informed and assist them with accessing information/resources:
  - The workshop will be 2/10 and will be recorded and made available to SPRING to use to assist families moving forward (topics include School Dismissal Manager, Report Card Access, BIMAS Parent Questionnaire & Reminders re: upcoming events like K Orientation & March Parent Teacher Conferences).
    - K Orientation 2021 will be virtual & held on March 3rd @ 1pm
  - On 2/24 will provide these families with follow up assistance. Springhurst FLES, ENL, and Admin will participate along with school counselor Ms. DelPilar & DFSD CIO Diane Newell in collaboration with Robin Larkins & SPRING volunteers.
- February 1st saw the beginning of our next cycle of in-person vs. remote learning where families were able to opt to change learning models – 16 students went to in-person and 10 moved to remote
- SH DASA/PBIS conducted Valentine’s for our Troops drive again this year. 600+ cards. Tara Galati & DASA Committee were featured on the Kelly Ford radio show.

### Middle School

- Alternating AM/PM Model - On January 19th, the middle school successfully switched models from the Hybrid to the Alternating AM/PM model. It has been extremely successful and we have received a lot of positive feedback. It is nice seeing the students every day.
- On February 1st, students were able to switch between in-person and remote learning models. We have 14 6<sup>th</sup> graders, 18 7<sup>th</sup> graders, 20 8<sup>th</sup> graders for a total of 52 for remote only.
- Virtual Trivia Night - The Student Government held a highly successful virtual Trivia Night. Students, staff, and parents joined together to compete.
- DFMS Parent Academy - The first session of our DFMS Parent Academy, sponsored by the Dobbs Ferry School Foundation, was held on January 27th. It was widely attended and successful. The session was on Google Classroom and the Student and Parent Portal. A special thanks to our presenters Amber Klebanoff and Jennifer Hickey. A link to the [session](#) is attached. Future sessions will be on Anxiety, Executive Functioning and ADHD.

Thank you to the principals and the teachers for all their efforts to really keep Black History Month in the forefront of our curriculum this year and in what we are doing each day.

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## 6. Correspondence

### 6.01 BOE Correspondence

The Board acknowledged the following:

- Four emails recommending the implementation of the Out for Safe Schools Program
- One email from The Landing regarding the Board's January 12th statement about The Landing
- One email regarding Flex Wednesday Issues

## 7. Committee Reports

School & Community Relations – 1/13

- The Committee focused on the new Race & Equity page on our District website
  - Reviewed the details of the design & planning
  - Big appreciation to Diane Newell, Liz Hausman and Kevin Ridley who worked very hard on creating it and it looks great

Curriculum & Instruction – 1/27

- The committee discussed the preliminary calendar for 2020/2021
  - School will have a late start next year because both Labor Day and Rosh Hashanah starting on September 6<sup>th</sup>
- State Assessments
  - NYSED has indicted it will submit a waiver request to USDOE that would remove the mandate for 3-8 testing and Regents Exams
- Plans had been underway at Springhurst and the Middle School to examine new Math programs

Facilities – 2/1

- We got an update on the capital project and Ron was pleased to report that SED has approved the architectural review of our capital project. We're still waiting on approval from the mechanical engineering aspect of the project. Once we receive final approval, we will then go out to bid for construction and short term financing.
- Ron and Dave were meeting with the architects yesterday for a phasing meeting
- He shared the projects that were going to be included in the Principals' 2022 budgets request this year:
  - Springhurst's requests include:
    - Some fifth grade bathroom renovations
    - Cafeteria update
    - Kindergarten playground expansion with some help by the Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation
  - Middle School boy's locker room being remodeled as well.
  - Discussed future meeting dates. We had some schedule conflicts, and so we rescheduled a few meetings.
- They would be paid for through the general fund budget if they survive the budget process.

Finance – 2/2

- Ron went through the monthly financial reports on the revenue and the expense side.
  - Some of the payroll related expenses optically look to be trending slightly higher, however, there were three payrolls in the month of December

Special Ed – 2/2

- The committee reviewed the special education recommendations which are on tonight's agenda for approval
- There are many senior annual review meetings in this batch for today
- Discussed the settlement agreement that is appearing on tonight's which was discussed at the Executive Session on our January 12 meeting
- Ms. Gismervik discussed the great work that's being done by our mental health staff in support of our student mental health needs, especially in this time of COVID. Dr. Brady and Ms. Gismervik also talked about the BIMAS testing that's being rolled out. They thanked the teachers, parents and students who are helping the district assessing the social emotional needs of the students for this year and into next year.

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Personnel – 2/3

- The committee discussed the personnel recommendations on tonight's agenda

*This meeting can be viewed on TV DFTV - Channel 77 & 47 or visit the website for the video of the complete meeting.*

## 8. Reports to the Board

### 8.01 Residency Update from Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, LLP

Dr. Brady and Mr. Schwartz welcomed David Shaw, attorney for the District, who updated the Board regarding residency and running for the Board. His report provided the Board with background and contextual information on the historical arrangement between Children's Village and the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District. Mr. Shaw explained the potential legislative issues surrounding a request by Children's Village parents to run for the Board and to vote in District elections, and he answered the Board's questions about what effect a Board resolution might have on eligibility and voting.

- Decades ago, the Greenburgh Eleven School District was created as a Special Act School District of the State of New York.
- Children's Village is a coextensive geographic area with the Greenburgh Eleven Union Free School District.
- Over the years as many as 15 such districts existed. A number of them no longer exist, but Westchester still has several Special Act Districts.
- The Children's Village property and any houses on the property are not geographically within the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District.
- The situation was established by the New York State Legislature in Education Law and may not be modified by any local school district. None of the school districts in the state has the statutory power to alter the state law.
- New York Education Law requires that to be eligible as a candidate for a school board, one must be able to read and write, be at least 18 years of age, and be a resident of the school district for at least one year before the date of the Board election/vote.
- Therefore, as Greenburgh Eleven Union Free School District is separated geographically from the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, residents of Greenburgh Eleven would not according to state law be eligible to run for school board in the Dobbs Ferry UFSD.
- It's possible that special legislation at the New York State Legislature could change that, but such change is beyond the power of the Dobbs Ferry UFSD Board of Education to accomplish through passage of a local Board resolution.

Questions from the Board:

- If we want to encourage the New York State Legislature to pass such legislation right now, how would that work?
- It would typically start with your local assembly person and state senator. There would have to be a bill drafted that would specify how this would be accomplished. However, it could have future implications elsewhere.
- You would probably start with the legislative person/senator and describe the particular need. It may fit within the broader scheme of other Special Acts, or maybe it could be stand-alone; that would be the process, and the governor would have to approve the bill.
- What effect would our passing a resolution have on the legislative process?
- The Board passing a resolution doesn't establish a change in law.
- School elections are governed under New York Education Law.
- If the school district passes a resolution, it would not put any change in law into effect; so what effect would our passing a resolution have on the legislative process?
- Correct: The Board's passing a resolution will not establish change in law.
- How the resolution is worded may either create a pathway to success or a pathway to failure in terms of the legislative analysis.
- If the resolution seeks to allow residents of Children's Village, or parents of children attending Dobbs Ferry Schools through the tuition contract between the two Union Free School Districts, to vote in the elections of the Dobbs Ferry School District and to run for the Board, the Board could pass such resolution and then it goes into motion with the legislative representatives, and you see what happens with it.

Mr. Shaw said he's happy to help the District in any way he can.



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## 8.02 Veterans' Tax Exemption

Dr. Lisa Brady, Superintendent, and Mr. Ron Clamser, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations, gave an update on the Veterans' Tax Exemption.

Update included:

- Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) §458-a Alternative Veterans' Tax Exemption
- Qualifications
- Eligibility Categories
- Basic Maximum Exemption Levels
- Next Steps
- Additional Steps

Discussion:

- Dr. Brady explained that last year March, we started to discuss and think about veterans tax exemption
  - Don Marra gave a very thorough and comprehensive kind of overview about the alternative veteran's tax exemption and to petition for the veterans living in Dobbs.
  - In 1984, the real property tax law that was enacted provided a partial exemption for county, city, town and village, however, school districts were omitted from the law.
  - On December 18, 2013, there was a revision that was enacted that allowed school districts to offer this exemption for local options.
  - Some nearby school districts quickly adopted the veteran's tax exemption: Hastings, Pelham, Blind Brook, Rye Neck, Pleasantville, Port Chester, Byram Hills and Tarrytown.
  - The exemption applies to the primary residence of qualified veterans: active military, naval or air service during period of war or received an expeditionary medal of honor.
  - There is an additional option that is available to Goldstar parents that are parents of any veteran who died in the line of duty.
  - There are three eligibility categories: Basic, Combat Zone, and Disabled Veterans.
- Mr. Clamser explained the Basic Maximum Exemption Levels and the dollar amounts associated with each:
  - Basic (War Time)
  - Combat Zone
  - Disabled Veteran
  - There is an additional Goldstar Parent level that would require another resolution
  - There's a sliding scale and high tax communities, which I believe Dobbs Ferry would fall under that requirement could provide additional income limitations or exemption eligibility requirements which would require a secondary public hearing and an additional resolution.
- Mr. Clamser will forward a memo from Shaw Perelson along with an FAQ from the Real Property Office that addresses some of the questions.
- Mr. Clamser explained that he was not asking the board for their opinions tonight, but at some time, we need to have a public hearing prior to the Board adopting a resolution if in fact they want to proceed to grant this exemption.

Mr. Schwartz thanked Dr. Brady and Mr. Clamser and to forward the additional information/data so the Board can make a decision as to whether we want to go forward with this.

## 8.03 Superintendent's Proposed Budget - 2021-2022

Dr. Lisa Brady, Superintendent, and Mr. Ron Clamser, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations, will present the proposed 2021-2022 Budget.

Presentation included:

- Budget Challenges & Unknowns
- Key Financial Assumptions
- Tax Levy Cap Overview
- Preliminary Tax Cap Calculation as of 2/9/21
- Preliminary Revenue Projections as of 2/9/21

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- Preliminary Expenditure Projections as of 2/9/21
- Next Steps
- Projected Tax Rate Calculation as of 2/9/21
- Historical Trend
- 2021-22 Budget Preparation Calendar

### Discussion:

Dr. Brady described the budget process from previous years and how we will approach it this year by starting with a budget that includes all the wish list items from the administrators.

- We still have a lot of trimming down to do.
- Mr. Berry and Mr. Clamser already met to prioritize a lot of the things that are on that wish list.
- Some of the budget challenges and the unknowns are federal and state funding levels; state aid, federal stimulus dollars, etc.
- Dr. Brady and Mr. Clamser met with the demographer who is in the process of creating a revised a demographic report for the board, so we can have a better handle on what our enrollment projections are going forward.
- The impact of COVID-19 requirements that will be needed to support opening schools and what are we going to need?
- PPE needs, students' surveilling testing, and ongoing programming needs to respond to students' academic needs, but social and emotional needs as well.
- Economic performance, interest rates and sales tax
- DFUT contract is still not finalized.
- Rising cost of employee health insurance and state pension contributions.
- The budget reflects a decrease state aid, IT projects and an increase in student enrollments.

Next, Ron Clamser began by explaining that there is no logical way to speak about the tax levy, when the tax levy cap legislation is so complex and it's very disruptive to the financial ability of the school district because it is very limiting. Next he reviewed the various components of the budgets:

- Tax Cap legislation started in 2011 for the 12-13 and after school years which was a 2% tax levy cap
  - Next he explained the components of the calculation which includes the CPI for the following year.
  - The preliminary 2021-22 tax levy cap for DFSD is 1.98% when factoring in exclusions and the dollar amounts associated with the calculation.
- Preliminary Revenue Projects and it's components
  - Unknowns in the tuition category, sales tax right now is flat and sales tax numbers may even decline.
  - Health Services remains somewhat consistent.
- Preliminary Expenditure Projections
  - Salaries are the bulk of our budget.
  - A couple requests from the buildings to add positions.
  - What we also need to fine tune is that as we move into negotiations, what our projections will be as we settle contracts. Currently we have two contracts that are preliminarily settled, but they haven't been approved yet and the teacher's contract is still open.
  - Benefits - pension costs, FICA costs, payroll taxes, health insurance
  - Operations and maintenance costs.
  - Increases in our utility bills.
  - BOCES hasn't given us all of their contract rates.
  - Transportation expense - we have not received numbers for the transportation contract or the enrollment numbers.
- Work has to be done and we're confident that we're going to be able to close that gap significantly.
- Next Steps –
  - We will reassess our revenue estimates.
  - Work with the principals and administrators to reevaluate their requests.
  - Reevaluate overhead expenditures.
  - Reanalyze, our staffing ratios and our class sizes.
- Historical Trend



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- 2021-22 Budget Preparation Calendar – upcoming dates of presentations and the Budget Vote

### Questions:

- What are you thinking about the state aid number? What happens if federal stimulus gets passed and what's the timing to get a better sense of what the state aid or any aid is likely to be?
  - By law, the state budget needs to be adopted and passed by April 1; however, it is often very late.
  - The unknown right now is if the governor's budget is built on the lower projections of receiving federal stimulus.
  - There's a lot of positivity and hope that federal stimulus is coming and that could potentially be a huge win if we receive it.
  - The other issue that's concerning is that the Governor is proposing a reduction to the star reimbursement putting that on the state aid runs, which has never happened before.
- Does this that mean that the reduction in Star reimbursement is going to shift on to the other non-star properties?
  - My ASBO group and Dr. Brady's Superintendent Council, and the School Board Association is lobbying very heavily on and advocating for us so we can get some clarity.
  - STAR has always been considered as part of our tax levy. is coming from the state has the star reimbursement, so what he's doing is taking it out of the tax levy now and saying it's going on state aid and he's reducing it. So we're left wondering, is it a cut? Or is it not a cut? Is it just a shift?

Mr. Schwartz thanked Ron and Lisa. The Board looks forward to the next couple of rounds to get us to where we need to get to thank you very much.

## 9. Board Actions

### 9.01 Donation

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board accept a donation from Tommy Giglio (a former student) of a beautiful Mason & Hamlin piano to Springhurst in honor of George Swietlicki and all the children he inspired.

Mr. Schwartz thanked the Giglio for the beautiful piano and tribute to Mr. Swietlicki.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

### 9.02 Resolution to Approve Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement between the District and the Dobbs Ferry United Teachers

Ms. Johnson moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board approve the terms of a Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement between the District and the Dobbs Ferry United Teachers, dated January 25, 2021. A copy of said Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement, as presented to the Board at this meeting, shall be incorporated by reference within the minutes of the meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

### 9.03 Settlement Agreement

Mr. Bufalini moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board approve the following:

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does hereby approve the Settlement and Release Agreement in regard to Student No. 9; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does hereby authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute such Settlement and Release Agreement on behalf of the District."

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

### 9.05 Participation in High Risk Sports

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Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board approve student participation in the following “higher-risk” winter sports, subject to strict adherence to the guidelines and protocols established by state and local health authorities, as well as the rules of Section I of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association:

JV Girls Basketball  
JV Boys Basketball

Varsity Girls Basketball  
Varsity Boys Basketball

Varsity Cheerleading  
Varsity Ice Hockey

Varsity Football

Varsity Volleyball  
JV Volleyball

Vote: 6 - ayes - 1 nays – Tracy Baron

### 9.06 2021-2022 District Calendar

Ms. Johnson moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board adopt the 2021-2022 District Calendar.

School will start later this year to accommodate a later Labor Day and Rosh Hashanah.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

### 9.07 2020-2021 Budget & Trustee Vote Vendors

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board approve the following authorized vendors, as amended, in connection with the 2021-2022 Budget & Trustee Vote:

Westchester Board of Elections

- Four voting machines; three 3 privacy booths
- Poll Books
- Poll Lists – Active, Military and Permanently Disabled

Ron's Trucking

- Delivery and return of voting machines and privacy booths to the Board of Elections

Phoenix Graphics

- Ballot Printing and shipping

Alperon Party Rentals – Ms. Baron announced that this company went out of business. Once another vendor is secured, it will be brought back to the Board for approval.

- 12 stanchions & 8 ropes

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

### 9.08 CSE/CPSE

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board authorize and direct the following:

WHEREAS the Committee on Special Education and Committee on Pre-School Special Education had issued to the Board by written confidential report dated February 2, 2021, its IEP recommendations for the students who are identified therein; and

WHEREAS the Board is responsible for arranging for appropriate special programs and services to students with IEPs, as recommended by said committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby authorize and direct the administration to immediately arrange for the special programs and services as set forth in said report dated February 2, 2021.

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Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

### 9.09 Personnel

Mr. Bufalini moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board approve the civil service and staff personnel recommendations.

Dr. Brady congratulated Rosalie Di Chiara on her upcoming retirement and thanked her for all her work with our students throughout her years in the District.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

### 9.10 Policy Revision – First Reading

The Board conducted a first reading of the following policies:

- 5151 - Homeless Children
- 5420 - Student Health Services

Both policies will be brought back for a second reading at the next Business Board Meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

## 10. Acknowledgements

### 10.01 Warrants

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following warrant:  
Warrant No. 32 Multi.

## 11. Citizens Comments

**11.01** Anyone wishing to make comments during the two Citizen's Comment portions of the meeting can do so by emailing [boemeetingcomment@DFSD.org](mailto:boemeetingcomment@DFSD.org) and you will be sent a link with additional details for joining the Google Meet for the Citizen's Comments portion of the meeting.

### 11.02 Notice

*Members of the community may comment on any matter related to district business. The Board President may request a brief description of the topic the speaker plans to address. Any group or organization wishing to address the Board must identify a single spokesperson. Presentations should be as brief as possible and no speaker will be permitted to speak for longer than 3 minutes. It is expected that speakers will conduct themselves in a civil manner and will be ruled out of order for any statement that constitutes a direct threat against officers, employees or students of the school district, or that is obscene. Questions or comments concerning matters that are not on the agenda will be taken under consideration and referred to the Superintendent for appropriate action.*

Ms. Kennedy read two additional comments:

- Greta Cowan - matter of granting CV parents of students attending Dobbs Ferry Schools to be able to run for a seat on the Board and to vote in the budget/trustee election:
- Mary McNamara's email regarding the matter of granting CV parents of students attending Dobbs Ferry Schools to be able to run for a seat on the Board and to vote in the budget/trustee election.

## 12. Old Business

Jean Lucasey, on behalf of the Policy Sub Committee, asked if Dr. Brady and Mr. Schwartz would agree to have the Policy Committee work on an omnibus equity policy to be part of the work of the Race Matters Committee.

Dr. Brady hasn't yet reviewed the information but will as soon as she can and get back to the Policy Committee. She thinks that this is a good idea.

## MINUTES

### 13. New Business

Tracy Baron has requested a report at some point looking at summer programs or extra short programs aimed at kids who have had particular either learning losses or challenges dealing with hybrid schedules which she assumes will have budget implications, etc.

### 14. Upcoming Meetings

#### 14.01 Calendar

Tuesday, February 23, 2021 - 7:00 PM - TBD

- Executive Session Only - Tenure Candidates & Probational Teachers Discussion

Tuesday, March 9, 2021 - 7:00 PM - TBD

- Public Hearing & Adoption - State Mandated Emergency Health Protocols
- Budget Presentations

### 15. Executive Session

#### 15.01 Executive Session

At 9:57 PM, Ms. Johnson moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, that the Board recesses into Executive Session for the following purpose: *to discuss ongoing litigation - The Landing on the Water at Dobbs Ferry Condominium.*

It was not anticipated that the Board will return to public session to take any action(s).

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

Ms. Johnson moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, to appoint Ms. Kennedy as Clerk Pro Tem.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

At 10:09 PM, Ms. Johnson moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, to move back to the Public Meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

### 16. Adjournment

At 10:11 PM, Ms. Baron moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays



Loretta Tularzko  
District Clerk